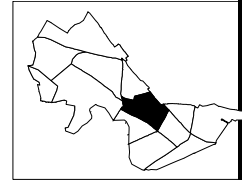


# NEIGHBORHOOD 6

## MID-CAMBRIDGE



**BOUNDARIES:** bordered by Massachusetts Avenue, Prospect Street, Hampshire Street, the Somerville border, Kirkland Street, Quincy Street, and Cambridge Street

**POPULATION:** 13,285 residents  
5,989 households

**AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME:**  
\$37,075

Neighborhood #6 is encompassed in the patrol boundaries of Car 2 (2 officers) and 6R (1 officer). It also includes walking routes 6A, 6B, 6C, and Harvard 15

### COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 1999 - 2003

CRIME	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Housebreaks	48	79	113	86	114
Street Robbery	6	18	18	18	16
Auto Theft	30	50	49	28	36
Larceny from MVs	99	56	86	129	87
Malicious Destruction	77	90	98	119	83
Drug Arrests	19	20	15	16	5

### 2003 YEAR END REVIEW

**Housebreaks** spiked in 2003 after a decrease in 2002. The first seven months of the year saw only 36 incidents, but the last five more than doubled that total. Thirty-nine housebreaks occurred during the months of September and October alone. The majority of these breaks were deemed professional, indicating a small number of repeat offenders were probably the culprits. The most common method of entry was by prying open the front door. Jewelry and laptop computers were the most targeted items. • Matching the citywide **auto theft** trend, Toyotas and Hondas were the most commonly stolen car makes in mid-Cambridge. The main streets of Broadway and Harvard, and smaller streets linking them such as Prospect and Dana, were the focal point of activity. • There was a significant decrease in **malicious destruction of property** in mid-Cambridge in 2003. Tire slashing incidents constituted 21% of vandalism reports. Thirty-six incidents occurred from the hours of 5:00-11:00pm. A spree on a single day in late May, mostly along Antrim and Hancock streets, was responsible for ten incidents. • Four “bully boy” **street robberies** occurred in the neighborhood, all them near the Cambridge Rindge and Latin School and the Longfellow School. • A mere five **drug arrests** were an all-time low for mid-Cambridge. Four arrests were for marijuana possession. • There were a few small **larceny from motor vehicle** sprees, but no major patterns in 2003. Almost two thirds of incidents occurred during the evening hours, and 11 took place on Harvard Street.

ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR MID-CAMBRIDGE AREA TARGET CRIMES					
Crime	1981-1990	Rank '81-'90*	1991-2002	Rank '91-'02*	Rank 2003*
Housebreaks	226	1	102	1	1
Street Robbery	49	3	18	5	6
Auto Theft	147	4	65	5	5
Larceny from MVs	198	1	106	1	2
Malicious Destruction	149	1	106	5	5

\*Ranks are out of 13 neighborhoods, with 1 indicating the highest crime rate and 13 the lowest.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE AND HISTORICAL SYNOPSIS

Mid-Cambridge is a busy neighborhood. In addition to the highest population of any neighborhood in Cambridge, Mid-Cambridge also has the city's largest high school (Cambridge Rindge & Latin), the Jackson Gardens residential complex, a good portion of Harvard University, and our own City Hall. It is bordered by the major thoroughways of Massachusetts Avenue, Prospect Street, and Cambridge Street, and three of the city's five busiest squares (Central, Harvard, and Inman) occupy its corners.

Because of the enormous number of people living, working, shopping, and going to school within its borders, Mid-Cambridge tends to have a higher than average rate for several crimes. *Harvard University, which has its own police department, patrols Harvard property in the western part of the neighborhood. Our statistics do not reflect most incidents that occur on Harvard University property.*

- **Residential Burglary** is naturally highest in a neighborhood with the largest number of residences. Though the rate of this crime has been cut in half since the 1980s, it still remains a serious problem. In 1992, burglaries fell below 100 for the first and only time in the previous 30 years. The largest clusters appear on Harvard Street between Prospect and Lee Streets, on Broadway between Lee and Ellery Streets, around the Massachusetts Avenue/Hancock Street intersection, on the lower half of Trowbridge Street, and on Lee Street. Mid-Cambridge also ranks high in **larceny from motor vehicles** and the related crimes of **auto theft** and **malicious destruction**. The Cambridge Police Department strives to reduce both crimes through preventive patrol efforts, "Park and Walks," and priority investigation. The 50 percent drop in reports of these crimes since the 1980's bespeaks some success.
- **Street robbery** is surprisingly low in Mid-Cambridge given its population. Most of the incidents that do occur happen on Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge Street, and in Inman Square.
- The high amount of pedestrian traffic on Massachusetts Avenue leads to a large number of **bicycle thefts** each year, particularly in or near Harvard Square.

